

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. The Office has rejected claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chow et al (U.S. Patent 5,875,334) in view of Oracle ("PL/SQL User's Guide and Reference"). In light of the arguments below, Applicant asks the Office to reconsider these rejections and to allow all of the claims.

The Rejections over Chow in view of Oracle

Applicant is submitting a declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 by co-inventor Rolf Günter Erich Stegelmann, which establishes that the invention described and claimed in this application was reduced to practice on or before March 9, 2001. This date is before the earliest date of publication of the Oracle reference found by either the Office or by Applicant upon further investigation (see included Information Disclosure Statement). The attached declaration and the accompanying documents together establish an actual reduction to practice of the invention before the earliest identified Oracle reference. Accordingly, all of Applicant's claims are allowable.

Conclusions

In light of the foregoing, Applicant asks the Office to reconsider this application and to allow all of the claims. Please apply any charges that might be due, excepting the issue fee but including fees for extensions of time, to deposit account 14-0225.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John D. Cowart", written over a horizontal line.

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